## Amendments To The Claims

This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process of treating sea algae and/or halophytes, comprising soaking the sea algae/halophytes in an aqueous solution containing a sufficient ~~small~~ amount of acid to provide the aqueous solution with a pH of 2.0 to 4.0, for a sufficient length of time to substantially reduce mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte to about 5 to about 15 weight percent by dissolving mineral from said sea algae/halophyte, the mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte being expressed on the basis of the total ash content of the sea algae/halophyte in a dry state, and separating the treated sea algae/halophyte from the aqueous solution that contains the dissolved mineral removed from the sea algae/halophyte.

Claim 2 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is used in dried state.

Claim 3 (Original): The sea algae/halophyte of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is used in wet state.

Claim 4 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is converted into smaller pieces after the soaking step.

Claim 5 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte used in the soaking process has an initial total ash content of about 25 to about 40 weight percent, based on the initial dry weight of the sea algae.

Claim 6 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted for a minimum of 3 hours.

Claim 7 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted for 5 to 12 hours.

Claim 8 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted at ambient temperature.

Claim 9 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein sufficient acid is present to provide a pH in the aqueous solution containing the sea algae/halophyte of 2.5 to 3.5.

Claim 10 (Original): The process of Claim1, wherein the acid is an inorganic acid.

Claim 11 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid.

Claim 12 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an organic acid.

Claim 13 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte, dry basis, used in the soaking step has an initial total ash content of about 25 to about 40 weight percent, and the ash content of the sea algae is reduced to about 5 to about 15 weight percent, based on the dry weight of the acid-treated sea algae/halophyte.

Claim 14 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae is a seaweed.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process of Claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein the dissolved mineral is separated from the aqueous solution containing the dissolved mineral by drying or precipitation of the aqueous solution.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process of Claim ~~15~~ 1, wherein the separated sea algae/halophyte is dried and reduced in size.

Claim 18 (Original): The sea algae/halophyte produced by the process of Claim 1.

Claim 19 (Original): A process comprising utilizing the sea algae/halophyte prepared by the process of Claim 17 as a food or feed ingredient.

Claim 20 (Original): A feed or fodder that includes the sea algae/halophyte prepared by the process of Claim 1.

Claim 21 (New): A process of treating sea algae and/or halophytes, comprising soaking the sea algae/halophytes in an aqueous solution containing a sufficient amount of acid to provide the aqueous solution with a pH of 2.0 to 4.0, for a minimum of 3 hours at 60° to 180°F to substantially reduce mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte to about 5 to about 15 weight percent by dissolving mineral from said sea algae/halophyte, the mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte being expressed on the basis of the total ash content of the sea algae/halophyte in a dry state, and separating the treated sea algae/halophyte from the aqueous solution that contains the dissolved mineral removed from the sea algae/halophyte.

Claim 22 (New): The process of Claim 1, wherein the organic acid is formic acid, acetic acid or a strong organic acid.